



A Message from Duke

Look for the Miracles

Christmas is centered around the greatest miracle of all time. It's the day we celebrate God becoming man, born of a virgin to come and take away our sins. If that isn't miraculous, I don't know what is.

Yet, it happened quietly, with little fanfare, in a stable. The Christmas story reminds us that miracles can take the most humble of forms.

For one mom at the Mission, it's a miracle to pick out the perfect Christmas gift she thought she wasn't going to be able to give her child.

For a man who spent weeks on the streets, a warm bed is a miracle. And for those who are hungry, a miracle is a hot, nutritious meal.

In the hustle and bustle of the holidays, miracles can be easy to miss. That's why this Christmas, my prayer for you (and for myself) is that you'll see miracles in the everyday. And that they will fill your heart with gratitude for our God who makes them all possible.

Merry Christmas!

Duke Paulson, Executive Director



Thanks to community partners like you, families at the Mission enjoy Christmas parties, visits from Santa and more!

"Why Would You Not?" Give \$2.02 Life-Changing Christmas Meals

When asked what Michelle would say to friends like you who are considering a gift to the Mission, her response was simple:

"Why wouldn't you want to donate something that shows kindness to someone who might not otherwise know it? Why would you not?"

The fact is, even one meal can be a life-changing demonstration of kindness, hope and love to a vulnerable neighbor. A meal can open the door to crucial care like counseling, recovery, job training and more.

With every \$2.02. you give, you are providing a nutritious meal and investing in the life of a hungry and hurting neighbor desperate to escape the streets and rebuild their life.

"Your kindness matters. It matters," Michelle shares. "You make a big difference."

You can help change the life of someone who is hopeless and hurting in our community. **Please send your special gift of Christmas meals by Dec. 20! Every gift matters.**

*Give quickly and securely online
at trm.org/HolidayMeals*

HELP. HOPE. HEALING.
THE NEWSLETTER OF **TACOMA RESCUE MISSION**

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

The entire staff of The Rescue Mission pledges to do everything possible to help the hurting and homeless. It was our commitment when our work began in 1912, and it continues to drive us. We pledge to bring help, hope, and healing to as many people as possible by providing food, shelter, clothing, education, job training, work opportunities, transitional housing, and other programs.

HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

**The Gift of a
Changed Life**

*"To be honest, the life I grew up in,
I didn't see being alive at 50."*

Michelle was exposed to abuse and addiction growing up. **Getting attention meant she was a target. From a young age, Michelle "struggled to survive."**

As a teenager, she turned to drugs to cope. It was what she knew, the life she grew up in. **And it was the only future she could see for herself.**

*"When you grow up in an abusive,
drug-infested environment, it's hard to
even see that there's any other way,"*
Michelle explains.

But when Michelle became a mother of two, she knew things needed to change. She got clean and moved her family into a substance-free house.

Finally, things were looking up. That's when **life, again, took a turn for the worse. . .**

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The Gift of a Changed Life

... the recovery house she was living at went into foreclosure. **Suddenly Michelle and her children were homeless.**

Hopeless and afraid, she faced the terrifying question, **“Will we have a safe place to sleep tonight or tomorrow?”**

“It’s debilitating” explains Michelle. *“Always having that hanging over your head is a huge burden, especially when you have kids.”*

Thankfully, a caring friend suggested the Tacoma Rescue Mission. Soon after, **Michelle and her family were able to move into the Mission's Tyler Square Apartments.**

It was a life-changing blessing.

“I was so used to having to survive, that I didn’t know how to thrive.” Michelle shares. *“But being here, having the stability of a home helps hope grow. It really catapulted us”*

Finally, she could focus on helping herself and her family.

Michelle received her GED, enrolled in college and helped start a recovery support group. *“I want to be able to help others,”* she says. Without the constant chaos and struggles of homelessness, her children could thrive in the healthy and supportive environment.

Michelle is grateful for you. She shares, *“The donor's kindness makes all of this possible.”*

Thanks to the generosity of community members like you, **Michelle is now hopeful for her children’s future.** *“Being here brings opportunities to children who are less fortunate. A lot of the blessings you can’t put a price tag on,”* she explains, *“Hope builds in the kids. They get to see that the world isn’t always a bad thing.”*

Your gifts help to change and rebuild lives. Michelle’s story is a powerful example. *“I knew that there were people living a different kind of life,”* Michelle says, *“but I never thought that would or could be us.”*

Because of your support, individuals and families in dire need can receive crucial help and care. Many times, that begins with a meal.

Will you help change a life by giving the gift of a meal? It could be one of the most rewarding gifts you give this Christmas.



Christmas at the Mission

Because of the generosity of community member like you, Michelle, her children and many others will experience the infectious joy, hope and love of Christmas. Partners like you are bringing people together and *“families who aren't used to having a Christmas are getting blessed.”*

“It’s just amazing to witness the kindness of the community and the impact it has on all the kids. I love seeing the looks on the parents’ faces when they witness their kid getting something they wanted to give them but couldn’t,” Michelle shares.

You Help Give Families a Real Christmas

Laughter, smiles, tears of joy. These are just a few of the things you’ll see and hear at the Mission during the Christmas season. Compassionate community members like you come together to host Christmas parties for the kids where they can decorate cookies, make ornaments, pick out gifts for their parents and even meet Santa!



“If you could see the smiles, hear the laughter of the children and see the tears in the moms’ eyes when their kids are provided for. You’d see how much your kindness matters.” - Sarah

“We get to spend Christmas how Christmas should be spent. It’s about Christ.” -Tesla


“Christmas at the Mission shows the kindness of the Tacoma community. It brings hope. It inspires people staying here to be and accomplish more.” -Michelle

Experience the Joy of Giving

Christmas at the Mission is extraordinary thanks to **partners like you who help make sure that each man, woman and child gets a gift and experiences the joy of giving.**

Everyone looks forward to the **Annual Christmas Shopping Days** when individuals and families staying at the Mission can select gifts for their loved ones.

You can help make this Christmas extra special for your hurting neighbors by donating some of our most needed gifts . . .

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Annual Shopping Days Wish List

 - 1. Gift Cards from Target or Walmart - great for all ages!
 - 2. Headphones, speakers, sports equipment, Seahawks gear and more - for teens.
 - Make sure to drop off gifts by December 16th!

Please bring your gift donations to:
1321 S Center St., Tacoma WA 98402

Verse of the month:

“It is more blessed to give than receive.” - Isaiah 49:10 (NIV)